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General Assembly

Official Records

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

417th Meeting
Wednesday, 21 June 1995, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Dr. P. Hohenfellner ..... (Austria)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Organization of work

The Chairman: This afternoon we shall continue and conclude our consideration of agenda item 9, "Other matters", and then begin our consideration of the Committee's draft report.

I am informed that there has been significant progress in the informal consultations on a Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and working methods, and therefore when the list of speakers on item 9 is exhausted we shall move to an informal meeting to begin consideration of the Committee's draft report. Once we have completed consideration of the available parts of the draft report, we shall again have informal consultations for interested delegations on language for our report on a third UNISPACE.

Other matters

Mr. Behliy (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*): Over the year that has elapsed since the last sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees space science and technology have seen progress towards implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE II) and the subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. Here, much of the credit is certainly due to all elements of the Committee.

I should like to mention in particular the very conscientious work done by the United Nations Secretariat, your contribution, Mr. Chairman, and the guidance given to the Subcommittees by Mr. Jasentuliyana and his staff.

Since it took its very first steps on the international stage as an independent State, Ukraine has been guided completely by the recommendations of UNISPACE II in its efforts to use outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and to increase international cooperation on space matters.

In evaluating the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, I should like to note the very solid groundwork done on the agenda of the Subcommittee's thirty-second session, bearing in mind, of course, the importance of the problems recommended by the General Assembly for consideration in the work of the Committee. Here I refer to General Assembly resolution 49/34 of 9 December 1994, without in any way diminishing the importance of the problems addressed at the thirty-second session of the Subcommittee.

I should like to point out that there is now an objective need to add to the list of subjects for consideration at the thirty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee by including on the Subcommittee's agenda an item concerning the expansion of international cooperation on the use of space technology to forecast, forestall and provide assistance in situations of natural catastrophe and environmental disaster.

These problems are extremely topical, and they are of importance not just to the countries of Europe, the United States and South-East Asia, where space technology is

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already being used, in one way or another, to combat natural disasters. The vital interests of the peoples of other regions of the Earth — first and foremost, the developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America — require more active application of space technologies to prevent, forestall and overcome the consequences of emergency situations, which have assumed an ever more destructive character in recent years.

Our country has certain technical experience in the use of space technology in emergencies, and it is ready to engage in the broadest possible cooperation in such activity within the United Nations system, so important to all regions of the Earth.

With regard to the recommendations of UNISPACE II on the establishment, development and strengthening of mechanisms for regional cooperation through the United Nations system, Ukraine is ready to propose that wide international use be made of a regional facility — the Outer Space Communications Centre at Yevpatoriya in the Black Sea region of southern Ukraine. Apart from guiding spacecraft in outer space, the equipment at the Yevpatoriya Centre is available for conducting various types of modern space research — interferomagnetic measurements, radar tracking of solar system planets, radio-astronomic research into non-Earth sources of radiomagnetic radiation and the study of other consequences and dimensions of outer space elements and celestial bodies.

In the light of what I have said, the Ukrainian delegation has the authority of its Government to suggest the establishment, on the basis of the Yevpatoriya Centre, of a new international space research centre which could be included in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The creation of such a centre could be a further step towards strengthening international cooperation on the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Galazka (Poland): My country very strongly supports the idea that has just been put forward by the representative of Ukraine.

The Chairman: The Committee notes the comment of the representative of Poland.

As it appears that there are no further speakers, the Committee has concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.